

ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, September 16, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Catholic Education Centre, Wallaceburg – St. Louis Conference Room

MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Community Living Wallaceburg	Derek McGivern
Community Living Chatham-Kent	Derek Jane
Epilepsy Support Centre	Christine Caniff
Lambton County Developmental Services Group	Adrian Vermeiren
VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children	Kathy Arcuri-Arnott
Down Syndrome Association – Lambton County	Kim D’Hooghe
Trustees	John Van Heck Linda Ward
Principals Representatives	Anita Cairns Juli Faubert
Board Advisors	Dr. Frank Leddy Lisa Demers Janet Boyle Lisa Thompson-Power Renée Zarebski

Regrets: Linda Ward, Juli Faubert

Absent: Derek McGivern, Adrian Vermeiren

John VanHeck
SEAC Chairperson

Dr. Frank Leddy
Board Advisor

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chair, J. VanHeck

1. Welcome and introduction of new SEAC members.
2. Prayer
3. Adoption of Agenda

MOTION BY: Derek Jane and seconded by **Kathy Arcuri-Arnott** to adopt the agenda.

CARRIED

4. Review of Minutes from June 12, 2013

MOTION BY: Kathy Arcuri-Arnott and seconded by **Derek Jane** to accept the minutes from the June 12, 2013 SEAC meeting.

CARRIED

B. PRESENTATIONS

1. "United Way Community Impact Grant – Work Changes Lives" R. Zarebski
 - Grant of \$16 000.00 requested and approved
 - Partners in the proposal: St. Clair Catholic District School Board, Lambton Kent District School Board, Community Living Chatham-Kent, Thames Valley Children's Centre, Options Program
 - Link with current initiatives: Ministry of Community and Social Services/Ministry of Children and Youth Services – Integrated Transition Planning for Youth with Developmental Disabilities; Ministry of Education – Transition Planning and PPM 156
 - Focus Areas: Healthy people, strong communities – supporting community integration and settlement, supporting resident and community engagement; All that kids can be – making the healthy transition into adulthood and post-secondary education

C. ASSOCIATION REPORTS

1. Community Living Chatham-Kent D. Jane
No report
2. Down Syndrome Association – Lambton County K. D'Hooghe
No report
3. Epilepsy Support Centre C. Caniff
No report
4. VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children K. Arcuri-Arnott
No report

D. UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

No unfinished business and business arising from the minutes.

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. SEAC Meeting Dates Dr. F. Leddy

Dr. Leddy requested that the SEAC meeting on November 18, 2013 be rescheduled to November 25, 2013 due to a conflict in schedule.

MOTION BY: Kathy Arcuri-Arnott and seconded by **Kim D'Hooghe** that the SEAC meeting on November 18, 2013 be rescheduled to November 25, 2013 and the December 16, 2013 SEAC meeting be cancelled.

CARRIED

Dr. Leddy emphasized the importance of having a quorum at SEAC meetings. He requested that if committee members are aware of a meeting that they are unable to attend, to please notify Alecia Atterbury, Administrative Assistant to Dr. Leddy ahead of time. Dr. Leddy asked if participants had a designated alternate to replace them in the event of their absence.

2. Special Education Administrators Report L. Demers

Lisa Demers shared highlights from the Special Education and Student Services Report that was shared with the Administrators at the August 28th meeting. Areas of focus for the 2013-2014 school year include PPM 156, professional development and support in the area of Functional Behaviour Assessment (FBA), Mental Health, and the implementation of the recommendations from the Secondary Life Skills review of program and services.

F. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Mental Health Lead L. Demers

Funding was made available through Ontario's Comprehensive Mental Health and Addictions Strategy, Ministry of Children and Youth Services. Beth Kuhn has been hired as the Mental Health Lead for the Board. Beth comes with an extensive background in mental health. As the Mental Health Lead, Beth will be responsible for coordinating, aligning and implementing a Board-level comprehensive student mental health and addictions strategy.

2. Eagle Rock Closure L. Demers

At the end of June 2013, the Board received information on the closing of the Section 23 classroom (Eagle Rock) in Sarnia. There was no formal warning prior to the announcement. Service providers from the Ministries of Community and Social Services, Children and Youth Services, Health and Long-Term Care, Community Safety and Correctional Services, and Education provide a multi-disciplinary approach to meet the needs of children/youth requiring special services. The students will now receive education in London and Windsor.

3. Mental Health First Aid L. Demers

During this past summer, there was an attempt to run a two-day training for classroom teachers, but due to insufficient numbers, the training was cancelled. There are plans to reschedule these sessions for this school year. Sharon Berry Ross and Tim Charrette will be the facilitators.

4. New PRT Orientation L. Thompson-Power
 Three half-day training sessions were held for twelve new Program Resource Teachers in September. Topics included the IEP Engine, development of IEPs, SEA funding, the IPRC process, Board support teams and community support teams.
5. Phonological Assessments J. Boyle
 The Speech-Language Pathologists will administer the phonological awareness screening to all SK students across the system during the month of October. This year there is funding available through "Learning for All" to provide release time for the Kindergarten teachers to meet with the Speech-Language Pathologist and the Program Resource Teacher. This will provide an opportunity for the team to collaboratively analyze the class profiles which can be used to program for all students from at-risk to advanced.
6. PBS Expansion R. Zarebski
 One of the goals of the Special Education Department for this school year is to further implement the School Wide Positive Behaviour Support Model (PBS). The current schools continuing the program are St. Joseph, Chatham, Holy Family, Wallaceburg and St. Matthew, Sarnia. St. Joseph, Tilbury and St. Agnes, Chatham have requested a presentation to staff. St. Ursula, Chatham has expressed interest. There must be 80% support from the staff in order to proceed with the program.
7. Geneva Centre Summer Training R. Zarebski
 Twenty-one staff from SCCDSB, including Educational Assistants, Classroom Teachers, Administrators, Resource Teachers, Central Office staff (Autism/ABA Teams and Behaviour Support Team staff) attended the Summer Training Institute in August through the Geneva Centre for Autism. The one or two-day sessions included ASD in the Classroom, Functional Behaviour Assessments, and ASD and Mental Health. As well, 2 staff attended TEACCH training which is specific to the understanding/structuring and usage of Structured Learning.

G. REPORTS FROM THE BOARD

The Board met for the first time in late August. The search continues for a new Director. Jim McKenzie is currently the Acting Director.

Effective September 2013 all Lambton County Catholic high school students are attending the current St. Patrick's campus on East Street during the construction of the new consolidated St. Patrick's Catholic High School at the St. Christopher site.

H. QUESTIONS ASKED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

I. NEXT MEETING DATE – October 21, 2013

J. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Dr. Leddy asked the SEAC members to email him if they have agenda items or would like a particular presentation.

K. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION BY: Kathy Arcuri-Arnott and seconded by **Derek Jane** to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

CARRIED